

The Groundplane



Join SBARA members for a pre-meeting social dinner at Sweet Tomatoes.
Time: 6:00PM — Date: May 13th. — Address: Gateway Plaza - Corner of Paseo Padre and Walnut

President's Message — By Al Rendon WT6K

CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day this is KU6S 4A East Bay. Can you believe that it will soon be that time of year? Summer and Field Day 2005 are just around the corner. For those new members, the ARRL Field Day is SBARA's biggest social event of the year. Many members and non-members of the tri-cities amateur radio community gather at Fremont's Central Park for three days of fun. It is the only time that you will be able to camp overnight at Lake Elizabeth, so, if you have a tent plan on joining the 'overnight group. Friday the 24th at 11:00AM we start to set up the stations. Starting at 11:00AM on Saturday we begin operating for 24 hours. Sunday morning at 11:AM we begin taking down the stations. This year's Field Day raffle will be for an Elecraft K2 HF

Transceiver. This is a great rig to have and remember if the FCC removes the CW requirement for HF all No Code Techs will be receiving HF privileges. Please mark your calendars for June 24th, 25th & 26th. Oh yes, do not forget to wear your new SBARA T-shirt to Field Day!

The new SBARA T-shirt orders are steadily coming in. We are over 2/3 of the way towards meeting our goal to sell 30 Shirts. Here is how it works; we will be taking your T-shirt orders until May 15th. On that date we will place an order with the manufacturer of the SBARA shirt. They will have the gold and black SBARA logo on the front. They will be available at the June SBARA meeting in time for Field Day. This is a one-time order since the minimum number of shirts we

can order is 30 and we will not be doing this again for a while. If you are going to want to wear one of these shirts at Field Day, get your order in before May 15th. We have children sizes and they make great gifts for our grandchildren to wear and feel like they belong with all the 'big' people at the SBARA Field Day. To place an order, go the SBARA web page and from the menu select SBARA Store. Open the pdf order form and send it in with your check.

May Program

Emily Clarke, AMSAT Area Coordinator and VP of Project OSCAR will give a presentation on using amateur satellites. Emily will give a brief introduction and then will shift focus to talk about the three newest satellites that provide amateur (cont'd. on page 2)

May 2005
Volume 6 Issue 5

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Special points of interest:

- Work KU6S
- Win a K2
- 2 Meter Antenna Test Result
- DX Convention News
- "T" Shirt & Name Badge Ordering

UPCOMING EVENTS			
DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
May 6th	7:30 p.m.	SBARA Board Meeting	Al Rendon's House
May 7th	6:00 p.m.	Fremont T-Hunt	Zapotec Dr., Fremont
May 13th	6:00 p.m.	Pre-meeting Dinner	Sweet Tomatoes
May 13th	7:30 p.m.	SBARA General Meeting	Veterans' Hall, Niles
June 4th	6:00 p.m.	Fremont T-Hunt	Zapotec Dr., Fremont
June 3rd	7:30 p.m.	SBARA Board Meeting	Al Rendon's House
June 10th	6:00 p.m.	Pre-meeting Dinner	To Be Announced
June 10th	7:30 p.m.	SBARA General Meeting	Veterans' Hall, Niles
June 24-26th	AM & PM	2005 Field Day	Lake Elizabeth, Fremont

President's Message (cont'd.)

(from page 1) On April 30th SBARA conducted the first workshop of the year. 19 SBARA members and friends attended the workshop to build 6 element 2M Yagi antennas. The group that gathered built 25 antennas in 4 to 5 hours. Since the workshop Kristen McIntyre K6WX Made a contact using only 0.5 watts and then took the time to modeled the Optimum Wideband Design antenna using NEC software and e-mailed it to all the participants. Mike Studer K6EEP did a measurement of the VSWR from 144MHz to 148MHz and has told me it is FLAT! The antenna is doing just what it is suppose to do. The workshop was lots of fun. When a problem came up people took charge and came up with a solution. Everyone worked so well together.

There will be more workshops so if you missed this one when the next workshop is scheduled. Keep tuned in...

Attendance this year at our monthly meetings is surpassing last year's attendance. That is good. The Leadership team is trying to provide a balanced program that has something for everyone. The Raffle's have been supported by the membership. This month a Garmin eTREK GPS will be one to the prizes. The pre-dinner meeting will be at Sweet Tomatoes so plan to start the evening eating dinner with your amateur radio friends. The program will be presented by Emily Clark WOEEC who is an AMSAT section representative.

If you can get on 80Meters don't forget this month's 'Work KU6S Evening' on May 14th between 8 and 9PM. Check the announcement in this issue for frequency and other details.

May Program (cont'd.)

(from page 1)

services - AO-51, HamSat (possibly AO-52 by that time) and P3E. She will provide practical information about using these satellites successfully. Emily has been a ham for only 26 months, but has already achieved VUCC and WAC on satellites. She has also achieved the AMSAT Sexagesimal award and the highest award, the W4AMI award for 5000 contacts. She currently has over 15,000 contacts! Emily has recently presented at the Project OSCAR Space Symposium. In October 2004 she was the recipient of the AMSAT 2004 President's Award."

Notes from the Visalia DX Convention – Mike Studer—K6EEP

I got a chance to meet some interesting people in Visalia at the DX Convention this year.

I spent some time talking to AC6V. He has an enormous ham radio website.

<http://www.ac6v.com/> It is really a very useful site. He has put out a couple books too. He told me to send him the link to my site so he could add it to his collection.

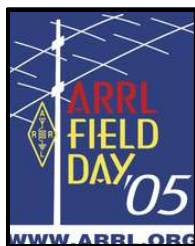
I also saw the new Yaesu HF rig the FT-9000 in all its variants. It goes for about \$11,800. I like the Contest version it has real meters on it and lots of knobs. And Icom had their IC-7800 set up for people to use. Wayne WU6S reported seeing a 8 year old kid cranking out 20 wpm CW on it. I should also mention that Wayne did it again and won the early registration raffle for a nice HF rig. IC-703 or something like that.

The main speaker for the dinner was Bharathi VU2RBI. She was on the Andaman Island DXpedition when the tsunami hit the area. The Andaman islands are East of India a good distance (VU4 is the prefix for them). Her group spent a considerable amount of effort getting all the permits to operate on the Andaman islands. Soon after they got on the air they felt the earthquake hit. Then the tsunami hit. They were in a safe location. But after the tsunami it became a relief effort. Her group was split up and sent to areas that were in need of communications. They did a terrific job handling communications in support of relief efforts. I hope some time in the near future they can have their DXpedition again in a more relaxed setting. We did get to see a lot more photos that did not appear in the various ham magazines. US Tower set up a monster beam in the parking lot again this year. They have a trailer with a tilt up tower on it. And the beam is huge! Speaking of which... There was a tech talk on arrays of monoband HF beams. A group of hams in Finland have setup some monstrous antenna arrays. One setup consists of a 300 foot tower with 6, 20meter beams on it. The entire tower rotates.

We saw a video of it turning. The scale is hard to visualize in a picture.

But it is enormous!

After hearing all about antennas I am ready for Field Day. How about you?



Secretary News — By Don Gintel— KG6SBE

Well for the month of April a total of 13 folks showed up for the Pre-meeting dinner. For the month of May the Pre dinner will be at Sweet Tomatoes. I hope a lot of people show up for the pre meeting dinner.

The meeting was called to order by President Al Rendon WT6K, we almost broke the club record of attendance that was set in August 2004 of 41 members and guests, we had 40 members and guests signed in for the meeting. Maybe at the May meeting we will break that record.

Al reported that with the approval of the E-Board any new member coming into SBARA will be charged a small fee of a one time charge of \$10.00 dollars, this will cover the cost of a SBARA ID badge. Al also reminded everyone that the SBARA T-Shirts are still availability for order, so if you want your T-Shirt before Field Day get your order in. And then Al spoke about the upcoming Field Day and the Elecraft K2 radio that will be

raffled off.

Al made a special presentation to Syd Ferman W6QWK with a Life Member Certificate from SBARA.

The guest Speaker was Ray Gaschk W6FYA who gave a great presentation on the ELK Log Periodic Antenna 2M/440 L5 New Dual Band. He also spoke about using horizontal Polarity vs. Vertical Polarity and which was the best to use. You can find out more about the antennas by going to his web site www.elkantennas.com

The last part of the evening was the Gene's Big Raffle drawing, The first winner won the Icom 2100 H 2m/mobile radio by guest Annette Berry KG6NUR, the second winner won a copy of the ARRL Emergency Communication Book by Bill Artelt WB9YVM and the last winner won a certificate for Krispy Kreme who was Gene Arrillaga KF6ZYG, however Gene gave someone else a chance and returned the certificate and Wayne Springsteen WU6A walked away with the donuts.

That was the end of the evening - But don't forget that you can be part of the fun on the second Friday of the month by showing up at the pre meeting dinner and then follow the group to the Vet's Hall in Niles for the main meeting. Let's try and break the record of attendance in May- I hope to see you all there. 73's to all. See you in May!

Do you need a SBARA Name Badge? Lost yours? - - Need an extra one for Field Day?

Order yours now and have it ready for Field Day

Send \$10.00 to Jim Wood or give it to Al Rendon or Sam Sever.

Include your Call Sign and the Name you want printed on the badge. (full name or first name)

We need 5 orders for name badges to make a minimum order.

Send to:

Jim Wood

42640 Palm Ave

Fremont, CA 94539

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

SBARA is now taking orders for the new SBARA T-shirts with the SBARA logo on the front. We are planning to stop taking orders on May 15th and purchase shirts for the number of orders we've received. Your SBARA T-shirt will be ready for you to pickup at the June SBARA meeting, just in time for Field Day. If you are one of the people who have been asking for a SBARA T-shirt, here is your chance. Fill out the order form on the SBARA webpage under 'SBARA Store'. For your convenience here is the link to the form. You can click on the link below to pull up the pdf-formatted form and print it out on your printer. Also, the order form has more information about the shirt design so take a look.

<http://www.qsl.net/sbara/sbarastore/T-shirtIndividualOrderForm.pdf>

May's Raffle Winner will have his/her choice of either a Garmin GPS or a Kenwood HT. The bright yellow GPS will interface with your PC, store 500 way points and run up to 22 hours on 2 AA batteries. The HT has a frequency range of 144-148 MHz, a 5W RF output, is PC programmable and has enough bells and whistles to encourage you to read the manual. Additional information on the HT and the GPS can be found at www.hamradio.com. This will be an interactive raffle, the number and value of the prizes will be determined by the number of tickets sold. There could be 2 big winners! Good luck.

ELECRAFT K2 FIRST PRIZE FOR SBARA FIELD DAY RAFFLE

Plan to attend SBARA's 2005 Field Day June 24th, 25th & 26th. Why? Because you could win an Elecraft K2 HF Transceiver. That's right. SBARA purchased an Elecraft K2 Transceiver for the FD Raffle first prize. The K2 Covers 80M through 10M and can operate on CW, SSB and all Digital modes.

receiver one of best formers com-to trans-costing \$10,000!



The K2 is still the per-even pared ceivers

Go to the Elecraft webpage <http://www.elecraft.com/> and select 'Rig Comparisons' from the menu on the upper left to see for yourself. Also, read Mike Studer's (K6EEP) article on the advantages of a K2 in the April Groundplane. Don't miss this chance to win an Elecraft K2 for your HF station.

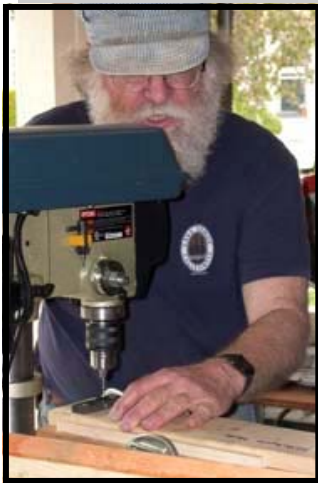


Garmin GPS & Kenwood HT

2 Meter Yagi Workshop Scrapbook



Don KG6SBE & John N6PLR

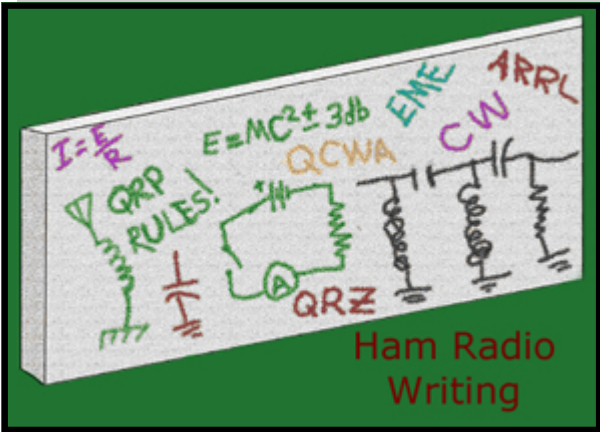


Al Tells All

Gene Drilling for Success



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Ham Radio
Writing

Work KU6S and Earn a QSL Card



DATE	TIME	FRE-QUENC	OPERA-TOR	EMIS-SION
May 14th	8PM to 9PM	3830 KHz	SAM SEV-ERS	LSB

Would you like a QSL card confirming you have worked the SBARA station KU6S? So many members have operated as KU6S at Field Day yet so few have ever worked KU6S from their home station. Take a look at the new SBARA QSL card and I'm sure you will want one for your very own card collection. All you have to do is contact KU6S from your home or Mobile station using your call and you will be sent a card confirming the contact.

Testing my new SBARA Workshop beam—By Mike Studer—K6EEP

I participated in the SBARA antenna workshop at Al's house. I stayed long enough to end up with a nice portable beam that breaks down for transport.

After I got it home I could not leave well enough alone so I did a few things to see what I could improve on. I have heard that I was not the only one doing that.

Pretty amazing group that helped out at the workshop. Once everyone got their jobs they just did them. And they did them well!

I wanted to test the SWR. So I mounted the antenna in the middle of my yard, 7 feet off the ground, on a wooden stick. I connected a Bird type wattmeter (I use Coaxial Dynamics version because it has a bigger meter and uses Bird slugs). And I used my handheld to generate the RF. Here are my results. I show forward and reflected power. You want to see big number under FWD and small number under REF. Note, .1 is about the smallest value I can detect on this meter with a 10 watt slug.

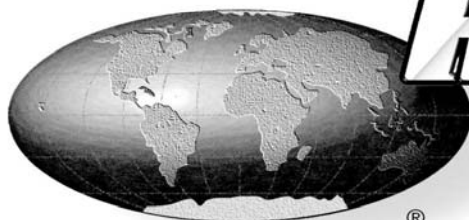
<u>Freq</u>	<u>FWD</u>	<u>REF</u>
144.1	4.0	.1
144.5	4.1	.1
145.0	4.1	.1
145.5	4.2	.1
146.0	4.2	.1
146.5	4.2	.1
147.0	4.2	0
147.5	4.2	0
147.9	4.2	0

So I did the math (Ref. ARRL Handbook 2005 page 21.6) using 4.2 watts FWD and .1 watt REF as my data. And that gives a SWR of 1:1.36.

So this is a nice flat SWR curve. Of course so does a dummy load. hihi. But this matches the performance data Al showed us at the workshop. So I feel pretty good about it. I did have a repeater pegging my S meter with the beam pointed 90 degrees away from the repeater site.

Looks like it will do the job for me. Hope you all like yours.

12 STORE BUYING POWER



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Handy Web Links

SBARA Web Site	http://www.qsl.net/sbara
ARRL Main Site	http://www.arrl.org/
ARRL SCV Division	http://www.arrl.org/sections/SCV.html
ARRL East Bay Section	http://www.pdarrl.org/ebsec/index.html
ARRL Contest Page	http://www.arrl.org/contests
Contest Calendar	http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal
Callsign Lookup (QRZ)	http://www.qrz.com/
Vanity Callsign Info	http://www.vanityhq.com/
IRLP Main Page	http://www.irlp.net/
AMSAT	http://www.amsat.org/
FCC Services	http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur

SBARA on the Internet at

<http://www.qsl.net/sbara>

On the Air at 147.015 + PL 103.5

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW - 147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5
 WA6PWW - 223.900 -500Khz, PL 107.2
 WA6PWW - 442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2
 N6OXR - 146.94 -600Khz, PL 123.0
 N6OXR - 441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
 ARES - Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

Groundplane SBARA Newsletter Copyright 2005 SBARA

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is six days prior to the end of the previous month. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio@comcast.net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines. The opinions expressed in the Groundplane are strictly those of the authors.

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The Ground Plane



SBARA monthly meeting:
May 13th, 2005
at the Veterans Hall in the
Niles District
Meeting Details in this Issue

At 6:00PM prior to the May 13th
SBARA meeting we will be meeting for
dinner at Sweet Tomatoes. Join your
fellow SBARA members for a social
meal. Located in the Gateway Shopping
Center at the corner of Paseo Padre
and Walnut.

The Ground Plane—KU6S
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